

6. (Amended) A process for producing carbon blacks comprising:

generating a stream of combustion gases in a first stage of a reactor having a velocity sufficient to flow through subsequent stages of the reactor and a temperature sufficient to pyrolyze a carbon black yielding feedstock;

a3 injecting a carbon black yielding feedstock into the combustion gas in a second stage of the reactor to produce an effluent composed of carbon black and combustion gases;

introducing a fluid stream in a direction axial to the flow of the effluent downstream from the injection of carbon black yielding feedstock, the resulting sheathed effluent passing through at least a portion of a third stage of the reactor; and

cooling, separating, and recovering the carbon black product.

a4 8. (Amended) The process of claim 7 wherein the fluid stream has a swirl pattern.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

The amendment to the claims is editorial in nature. The language now used in some of the claims was requested by the Examiner. Full support for the amendment can be found throughout the present application. The scope of the claims has not been altered due to this amendment. Accordingly, no questions of new matter should arise and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth the reasons for the Restriction Requirement which separated the pending claims into two groups. The applicant affirms the election of claims 1-10. The applicant believes that the remaining claims, namely claims 11-14, should be examined at